MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know from the Chief Engineer whether there is any provision for raising the Kannankuzhi embankment in the Budget of 1119?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: Yes.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Then, how is it that the work is being delayed?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: The estimate has got to be sanctioned by Government.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Did not the Chief Engineer make a promise on the floor of the House that this work would be completed before 1119 M. E.?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: I said that I would try my best to proceed with the work.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: With regard to improving the Kidangannoor section of Pandalam-Aranmula road, may I know whether there is not an express provision of Rs. 1,000 in the Budget for 1119?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: Yes.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Then, how is it that the work is being delayed?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: Tenders have been invited for the work and will be settled shortly.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether Government will be pleased to take steps for completing the investigations relating to flood levels and irrigation requirements?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: That has already been answered.

Rice purchased from outside.

6. *MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Will the Government be pleased to state whether in the rice which they purchased from outside the State and which they sell under their control within the State there is a considerable measure of loose bran, husk, mud and pebbles?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No; except in rare cases.

Distribution of Food Materials.

7. *MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Will the Government be pleased to state whether in the procurement and distribution of food materials they are incurring any monetary loss or having any pecuniary gain or managing without either loss or profit?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Procurement and distribution of food grains are not undertaken by Government with a view to earn profit. The position can be stated only after the transactions relating to procurement and distribution are finally wound up.

Co-operation from the members of the Legislature.

8. *MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are not having cordial co-operation from the members of the Legislature in response to their call for the procurement and distribution of food materials?

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Government are obtaining more co-operation from certain members of the Legislature than from others but they have found no unwillingness to co-operate on the part of any member.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDHANAN NAIR : May I know, how many Taluk Committees are at present functioning in Travancore for the purpose of distribution of food materials ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Sir, that question does not arise out of this.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Sir, the question is whether the co-operation of the members of the Legislature was sought in the distribution of food materials and my point now is, even though there are Taluk Committees, and even though there are members of the Legislature as members of the Committee in respective places—I myself am a member—I was not invited for any meeting of the Taluk Committee. Hence my question. If that is the state of affairs, how can we co-operate ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Sir, co-operation of non-officials has been sought for the purpose of distribution of food grains. I know there are definite instances where the non-officials have come forward with their constructive aid.

PRESIDENT : Will the honourable member verify the allegation of Mr. Janardanan Nair that although he is a functionary of the Taluk Committee, he was not invited to participate in any of the meetings? If, after verification, it is found to be so, then it reveals a serious state of things. Either that Taluk committee has not met at all, or having met has avoided Mr. Janardanan Nair which again is equally serious or he had not got notice of the meeting and so forth. Will the honourable member please verify all that ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Yes, Sir.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP (*Ambalapuzha cum Shertalla*) : May I know from the member whether Taluk Committees are being worked in every taluk ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Yes, they are. I know they are working satisfactorily in certain taluks.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, as far as I know, I am not aware of a committee having functioned in Alleppey for the past 5 months.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The non-functioning of Taluk Committees was brought to the notice of the Food Advisory Committee which met a few days ago. As a result Government have passed stringent orders to the effect that there should be at least one meeting convened every month and the proceedings of that meeting forwarded to Government.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP : May I know whether Government have taken any action against officers who have not regularly followed the instructions of Government issued on the subject ?

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: After the meeting of the last Food Advisory Committee, orders have been issued for the functioning of Taluk Committees at least once a month.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: May I know when was such an order issued?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: About two weeks ago.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE (*Ambalapuzha cum Shertalla*): May I know, what about the taluk committee meeting at Shertalai?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The honourable member knows it very well.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: May I know whether the Government have any information about the convening of meetings at least once a month in that place?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Government have passed stringent orders to the functioning of these committees at least once every month.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that is sufficient. As honourable members have told me, there is lurid light in the manner in which these committees are functioning. I expect that officers of Government will exercise more care on the matter and see that Government orders are carried out.

Average tax.

9. *MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Will the Government be pleased to state the average land tax including water cess per acre of paddy land in each of the taluks?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The information will be collected.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Am I to take it that the Government have not so far collected this information?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Information has to be collected in certain instances. The nature of the question is such that information has to be collected in the first instance.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Am I to take it that Government have fixed the price of paddy without taking into consideration the tax in different localities?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Settlement pattom is available with reference to each survey number and holding and the average land tax per acre cannot be ascertained without further elaborate calculations.

Quality of Milled Rice.

10. *MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have discovered any appreciable difference between rice milled in Travancore and rice milled outside Travancore?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No rice is milled in Travancore and hence a comparison is not possible.

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